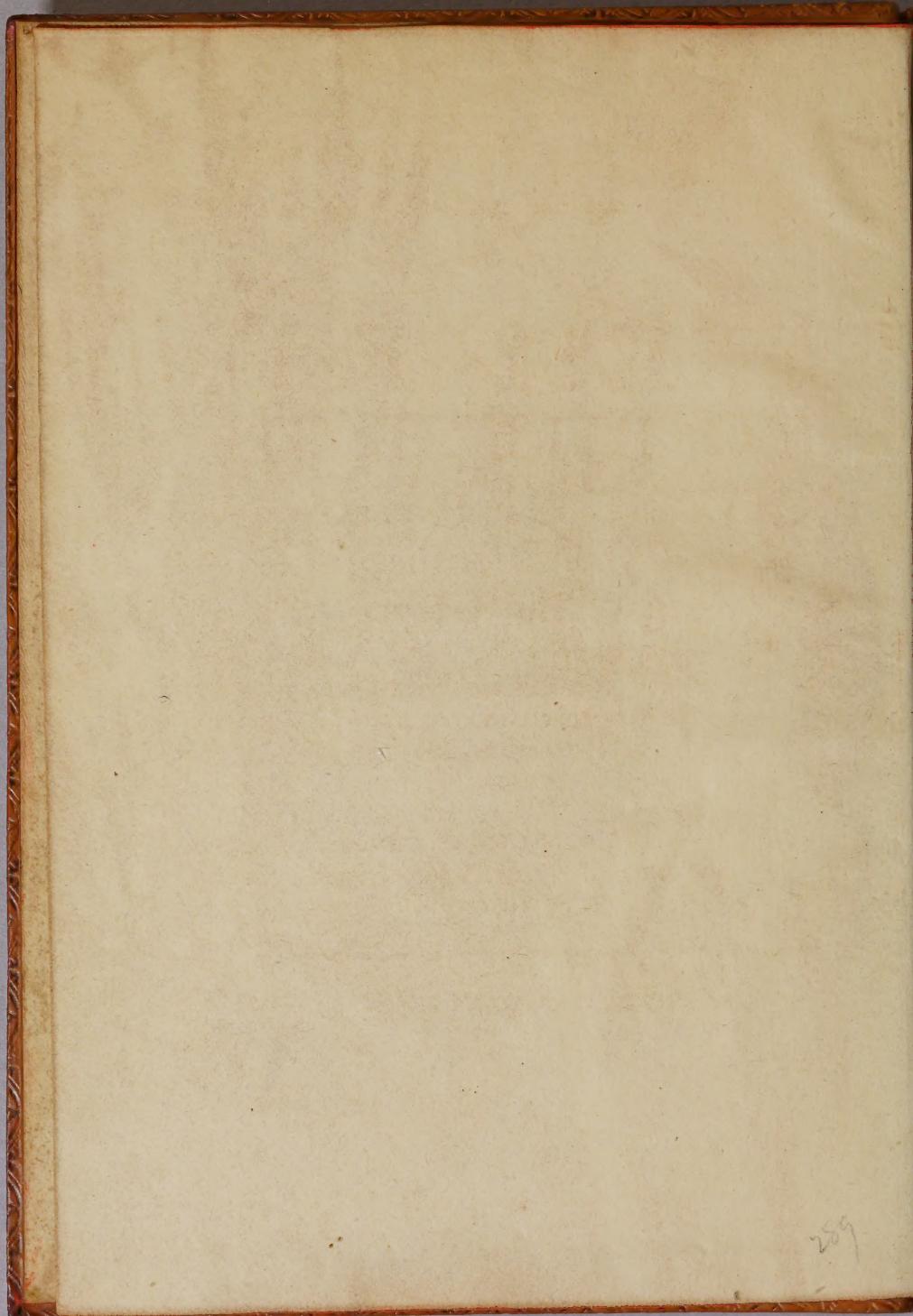




John Carter Brown.



A
PETITION
OF *W^m Castell*
EXHIBITED
TO THE HIGH
COVRT OF PARLIAMENT

now assembled, for the propa-
gating of the Gospel in
America, and the *West Indies*; and
for the settling of our Plantations
there; which Petition is appro-
ved by 70 able English
Divines.

Also by Master *Alexander Henderson*,
and some other worthy Ministers
of Scotland.

Printed in the yeare, 1641.

A
PETITION
OF M.C.
EXHIBITED
TO THE HIGH
COURT OF PARLIAMENT
now subsupped, for the purpose
of settling of the Gobbel in
accordance with the New Law; and
for the settling of our Petitions
that the High Petition is rejected.
and to this effect
Dated.

At the Hague, the 20th of May
and some of the Month of May
of 1661.

Printed in the Hague, 1661.





TO THE
MOST HIHG
AND
HONOVRABLE
Court of PARLIAMENT
now assembled.

The humble PETITION of William
Castell, Parson of Courtenhall in Northampton-
shire, for the propagating of the
Gospel in America.

Lmall humble manner sheweth unto your approved wisedomes, the great and generall neglect of this Kingdome, in not propagating the glorious Gospel in America, a maine part of the world: Indeed the undertaking of the worke is (in the generall) acknowledg'd.

ledged pious and charitable; but the small prosecution that hath hitherto beeene made of it, either by us, or others, having as yet) never beeene generally undertaken in pitty to mens soules, but in hope to possesse the land of those Infidels, or of gaine by Commerce, may well make this and all other Christian Kingdomes confess, they have beeene exceeding remisse in performing this so religious, so great, so necessary a worke.

May it therefore please your wisedomes to give your *Petitioner* leave to propose briefly, (as the nature of a Petition requireth) the more then ordinary piety, and charity of the worke; the evident necessity, and benifit of undertaking, together with the easinesse of effecting.

A greater expression of piety (your *Petitioner* conceiveth) there cannot be, then to make God known where he was never spoken nor thought of, to advance the Scepter of Christs Kingdome. And now againe to reduce those, who (at first) were created after the Image of God from the manifest worship of devils: To acknowledge and adore the blessed Trinitie in Vnity, to doe this, is to be happy Instruments of effecting those often repeated promises of God, in making all nations blessed by the comming of Christ, and by sending his word to all lands: It is to inlarge greatly the pale of the Church.

And

And to make those (who were the most detestable Synagogues of Sathan) delightfull Temples of the Holy Ghost.

It was a high point of piety in the Queen of the South, to come from the utmost parts of the world to heare the wisedome of *Salomon*. And so it was in *Abraham*, to leave his native countray for the better, and more free service of his God.

And certainly it will bee esteemed no lesse in those, who (either in their persons or purses) shall religiously endeavour to make millions of those silly seduced *Americans*, to heare, understand and practise the mysterie of godlinesse.

And as is the piety, such is the charity of the worke, exceeding great, to no lesse then the immortal soules of innumerable men, who still sit in darkenesse, and in the shadow of death, continually assaulted and devoured by the Dragon, whose greatest delight is to bring others with himself into the same irrecoverable gulfe of perdition, what those blind and spirituall distressed *Americans* are, we were, and so had continued had not Apostolicall men afforded greater charity unto us, *Divisum orbe Britannus*, by long Journeying, and not without great hazard of their lives, then (as yet) hath beene shewed by us unto them.

Wee are not indeed indued with such eminent

eminent extraordinary gifts, as were the Primitive Christians ; but yet (if it be duly considered) how fully and how purely God hath imparted his Gospel unto this Iland, how miraculously, hee hath lately protected us from Spanish Invasions, and Popish conspiracies ; and how (at this time) wee abound in shipping, and all manner of provision for Sea : It will bee found, that we (of all nations) are most for the worke, and most ingaged to doe it in due thankfulness to God.

Nor is the Arme of the Lord shortned, or his wonted bountys so restrained, but that undertaking the voyage principally for Gods glory, and in compassion to mens soules, we may expect a more then an ordinary blessing from him, whose usuall custome is to honour those that honour him, and most abundantly even in this life, to recompence such religious undertakings.

The Spaniard boasteth much of what hee hath already done in this kind, but their owne Authors report their unchristian behaviour, especially their monstrous cruelties to be such, as they caused the Infidels to detest the name of Christ. Your wisedomes may judge of the Lyon by his claw. In one of their Ilands called *Hispaniola* of 200000 of men, as *Benz* (in his Italian Historie) affirmeth, they had not
left

left 150 soules. And *Lipsius* justly complaineth, that wheresoever they came, they cut downe men as they did corne without any compassion. And as for those that survived, they bought their lives at deare rates: for they put them to beare, their carriages from place to place; and if they fayled by the way, they either miserably dismembred, or killed them out-right. They lodged them like bruite beasts under the planks of their ships, till their flesh rotted from their backs: And if any failed in the full performance of his daily taske, hee was sure to bee whipped till his body distilled with goar blood, and then poured they in either molten pitch or scalding oyle to supple him.

A very strange, and unlikely way to worke Infidels unto the faith, neither yet could they (if they would) impart unto others the Gospel in the truth and purity thereof, who have it not themselves, but very corruptly, accompanied with many idle, absurd, idolatrous Inventions of their owne, which are but as so many super-structures wickedly oppressing, if not utterly subverting the very foundations of Christianity.

And although some of the reformed religion, English, Scotch, French, and Dutch, have already taken up their habitations in those parts, yet hath their going thither (as yet) beeene to small purpose.

purpose, for the converting of those nations, either for that they have placed themselves but in the skirts of *America*, where there are but few natives (as those of new *England*, or else for want of able and conscientious Ministers (as in *Virginia*) they themselves are become exceeding rude, more likely to turne Heathen, then to turne others to the Christian faith.

Besides, there is a little or no hope our Plantations there should be of any long continuance, since here in *England* for some yeares last past, they have beene rather diversly hindred, then any wayes furthered, how, and by whom, your wisedomes, either have or will shortly find out, but this is evident, that the proud superstitious Spaniard (who hateth their religion, and feareth their neighbours, will spare them no longer then (to his over-swelling greatnessse) shall seem good: And in the judgement of most judicious Travellers that way, they may (if they will) easily enough supprese and destroy all other our Plantations, as they did of late, that of *Saint Christophers*, when they were no way provoked by us, as they will now pretend they are, by a latter taking of *Trinidad*, and the losse of more then 150. of their men there. At least they will bee sure to be desperately assualted, as was the Isle of *Providence*, but the yeare last past.

Whence

Whence your Petitioner offereth unto your Honourable considerations a third Argument (drawne from meere necessity) that as you tender the happy proceeding of those (as yet) but weakely settled Plantations : the liberties, live-lihood, and lives of many thousands our deare brethren, and countrey men: And which is yet, more the prosperous progress of the gospel, you would be pleased to consult of such au able and speedy supply, as may secure them against the now expected cruelty of the Spaniard.

To which needfull supply the better and sooner to induce your wisedomes, your Petitioner desireth your yet a little further patience, untill hee hath shewed some temporall benefits that are thereby like to acrew unto this Kingdome, together with the easinesse of effecting.

When a Kingdom beginneth to be over-burthened with a multitude of people (as *England* and *Scotland* now do) to have a convenient place where to send forth Colonies is no final benefit: And such are the North-east and North-west parts of *America*, betweene the degrees of 25. and 45. of the North latitude, which, at this time doe even offer themselves unto us, to bee protected by us, against the knowne cruelty of the over-neare approaching Spaniard.

A very large tract of ground containing spa-
cious,

cious, healthfull, pleasant, and fruitfull coun-
tries, not only apt, but already provided of all
things necessary for mans sustentation, Corne,
Graffe, and wholsome cattell in good compe-
tencie; but Fish, Fowle, Fruits and Herbes in
abundant variety.

If wee should looke no further, then the
South of *Virginia*, which is our owne) wee
shall find there all manner of provision for
life; besides Merchantable Commodities, Silke,
Vines, Cotton, Tobacco, Deer-skins, Goat-
skins, rich Furre, and Beavers good store, Tim-
ber, Braffe, Iron, Pitch, Tarre, Rosin; and al-
most all things necessary for shipping, which if
they shall bee employed that way; they who
are sent away may (with Gods blessing) within
short time in due recompence of their setting
forth, returne this Kingdome store of silver and
gold, pearles and precious stones; for undoub-
tedly (if there be not a generall mistake in all
Authors, who have written of these places) such
treasure is to bee had, if not there, yet in
places not farre remote, where (as yet) the Spaniard
hath nothing to doe. And in case the
Spaniard will bee troublesome to our Planta-
tions, or shall (as it is generally conceived)
bee found an Enemy to this Kingdome, there
is no way more likely to secure *England*, then by
having a strong Navie there; hereby wee
may

may come to share , if not utterly to defeat him of that vaste Indian Treasure , wherewith hee setteth on fire so great a part of the Christian World , corrupteth many Counsellors of state, supporteth the Papacie, and generally perplexeth all reformed Churches.

Nor need any scrupulous quere bee made, whether wee may not assault an enemy in any place, or not esteeme them such as shall assault us in those places , where wee have as much to doe as they. The Spaniard claimeth indeed an Interest , little lesse then hereditarie in almost all *America* , and the *West Indies* , but it is but by vertue of the Popes grant , which is nothing worth , as was long since determined by *Queene Elizabeth* , and her Councell ; so as for the Spaniard to debarre us in the liberty of our Plantations , or freedome of commerce in those spacious countries, were over proudly to take upon him ; and for us to permit it were over-much to yeeld of our own right.

Especially , when we may , as now we may, so easily helpe our selves : For your Petitioner conceiveth there is no great difficulty in the preparation here , or tediousnesse in the passage thither, or hazard when wee come there. The preparation of men and shippes , in respect of the daily happy expect^{ed} accord betweene us and

and the *Scots*, is (upon the matter) already made; and as for money it is in the power of this Honourable House to give sufficient, without any grievance, or dislike of the Commonwealth, who (undoubtedly) in the generall will thinke nothing grievous, which shall bee concluded by your wisedomes, expedient to such a pious and charitable worke.

And as for the passage, how can it be thought either tedious or dangerous, it being ordinarily but six weekes sayle, in a sea much more se-
cure from Pirats, and much more free from shipwrack, and enemies coasts, then our ten or twelve moneths voyage into the *East-Indies*. And as for our good successe there, wee need not feare it. The natives being now every where more then ever, out of an inveterate ha-
tred to the Spaniard, ready and glad to enter-
taine us. Our best friends the Netherlanders be-
ing with eight and twenty ships gone before to assist and further us. And which is much more, our going with a generall consent in Gods cause, for the promoting of the Gos-
pel, and inlarging of his Church, may assure us of a more then ordinary protection and di-
rection. That hitherto wee have beeene lesse
succesfull in our voyage that way, wee may justly impute it to this, that as yet they have
not beene undertaken with such a generall con-
sent,

sent, and with such a full reference to Gods
glory as was requisite.

And so your Petitioner having delivered his
apprehension herein more briefly, then so
weighty a matter might well require, hee
submits all the premises to your more full de-
liberation and conclusion, whiche hee humbly
prayeth, may bee with all convenient speed,
the onely best way under God to make
it the better successfull.

W^c

W^Ee whose names are here under-written, having bee[n]e upon occasion acquainted with a motion intended to bee made by Master William Castell, Parson of Courtenhall in the county of Northampton, to the High and honourable Court of Parliament now assembled, concerning the propagation of the glorious Gospel of Christ in America. As wee doe well approve of the motion; so wee doe humbly desire his reasons may bee duly considered: And so good a worke furthered their wiser judgements may resolve upon, to which wee humbly submit the same.

John Moseley.	D.D	Ministers of LONDON.
Ra: Brownricke.	D.D	George Walker.
Thomas Bambrig.	D.D	James Palmer.
Robert Sanderson.	D.D	Edward Marbury.
Richard Alleyne.	D.D	Joseph Caryll.
Daniel Featly.	D.D	Edmond Calamy.
Mathias Styles.	D.D	Adoniram Byfield.
Edmond Stanton.	D.D	William Price.
Stephen Denison.	D.D	Richard Maden.
Edw. Williamot.	D.D	James Batty.
Jonathan Brown.	D.D	Math: Griffeth.
Jasper Fisher.	D.D	Ephraim Paget.
Hannibal Potter.	D.D	Robert Pory.
Anthony Clapton.	D.D	William Ianeway.
Thomas Drayton.	D.D	Nathaniell Barry.
John Grant.	D.D	

Ministers of several other Countries.

John White.	Dorsetshire.
William Ford.	Somersetshire.
John Pyns.	
Zachery Caudry.	Lestershire.
Henry Paynter.	Devonshire.
Steven Marshall.	Essex.
Samuel Joyner.	
John Ward.	Suffolke.
Ier: Burroughes.	Northfolke.
John Rawlinson.	Darby.
Moses Capell.	
William Rhee.	Kent.
Francis Charlton.	Buck.
Richard Gifford.	Herford.
William Englesby.	

Other worthy Ministers of the Diocese of Peterborough, where the Petition liveth.

Daniel Caudery.	Samuel Moyle.
Jeremy Whittaker.	Daniel Rogers.
John Barry.	Benjamin Tomkins.
James Cranford	Richard Cooke.
Samuel Craddock.	Richard Trueman.
David Enstone.	John Gudericke.
Edward Castell.	William Spencer.

*Edmond James
John Baynard.
George Tay.
Frances Presse.
John Gauderick
Miles Berket*

*Francis Atterbury
Jeremy Stevens.
John Ward.
Peter Fau tract.
William Malkinson.*

The motion made by *Master William Castel* Minister of the Gospel for propagating of the blessed Euangel of Christ our Lord and Saviour in *America*, wee conceive in the general to bee most pious, Christian and charitable. And therefore to bee seriously considered, of all that love the Glorious Name of Christ, and are zealous of the salvation of Soules, which are without Christ, & without God in the world, wishing the opportunity & fit season; the instruments and meanes. And all things necessary for the prosecution of so pious a worke, to be considered by the wise dome of Churches, in Ciuill Powers, whom God hath called, and enabled with Piety, prudence, and Peace, for matters of publike concernment, And of so great importance.

And

And beseeching the Lord to blesse all their
consultations, & proceedings, for the advanc-
ing and establishing the Kingdome of Jesus
Christ;

Alexander Henderson.

Robert Blare.

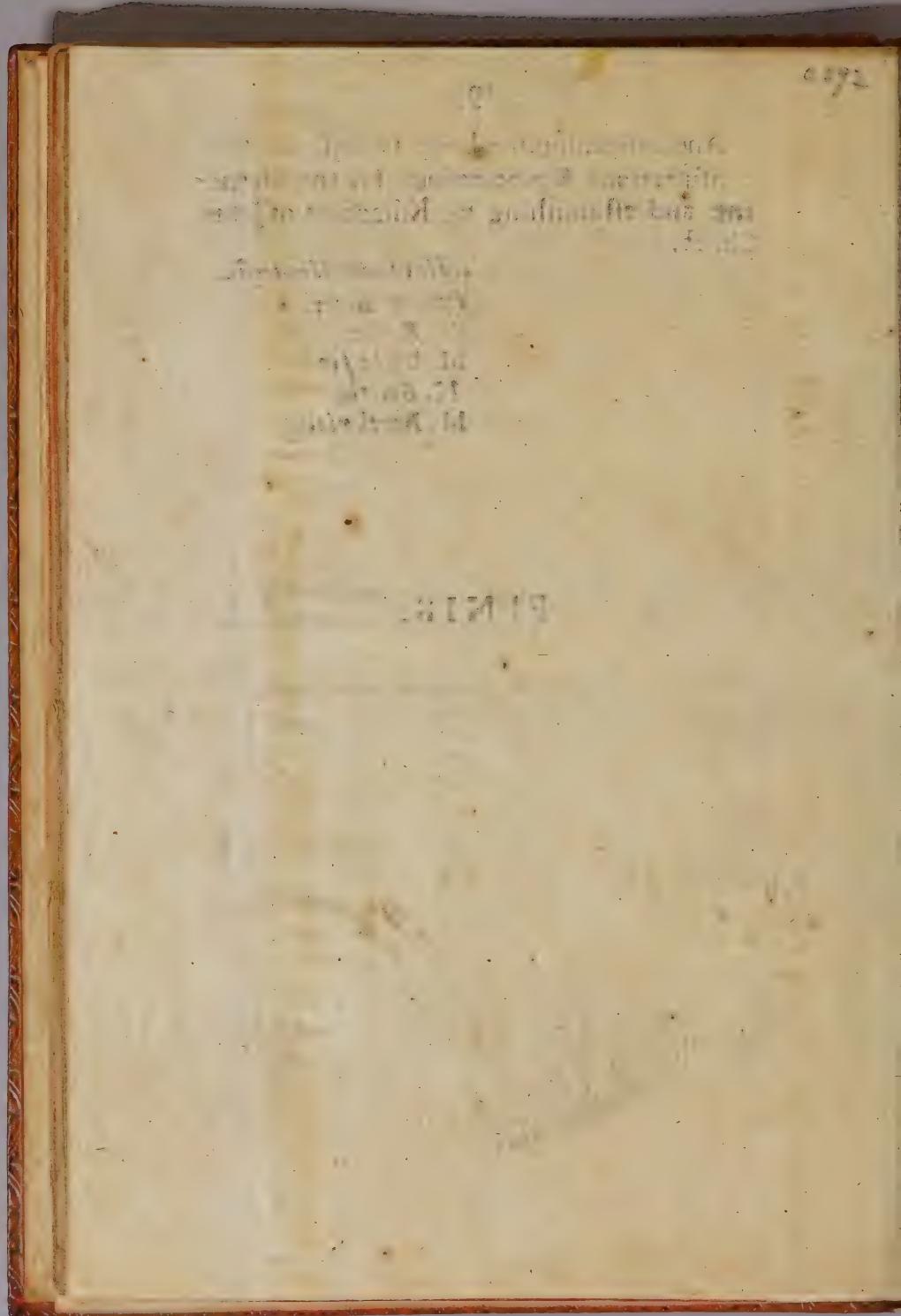
R. Ballic

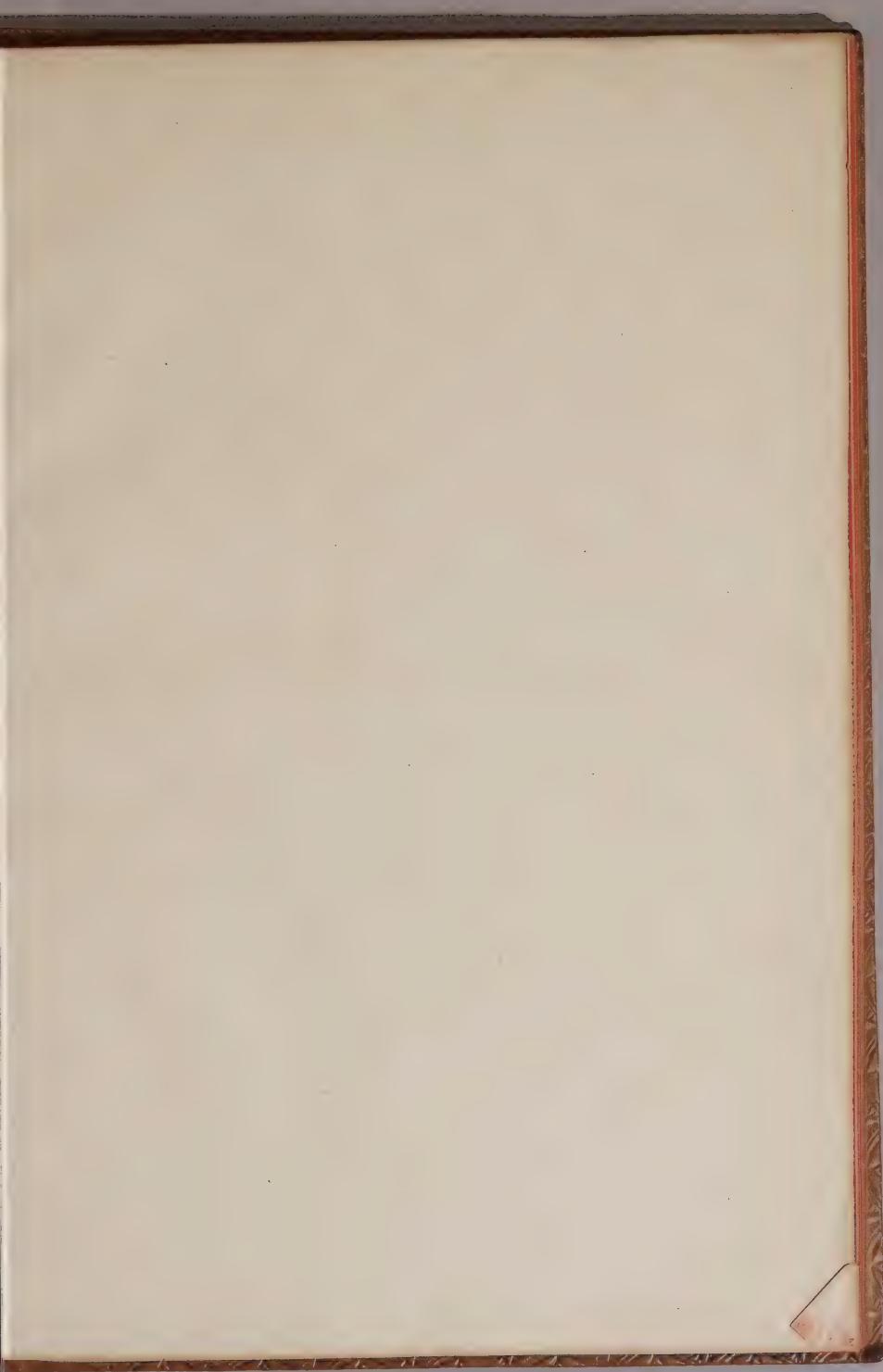
M. Gillaspie.

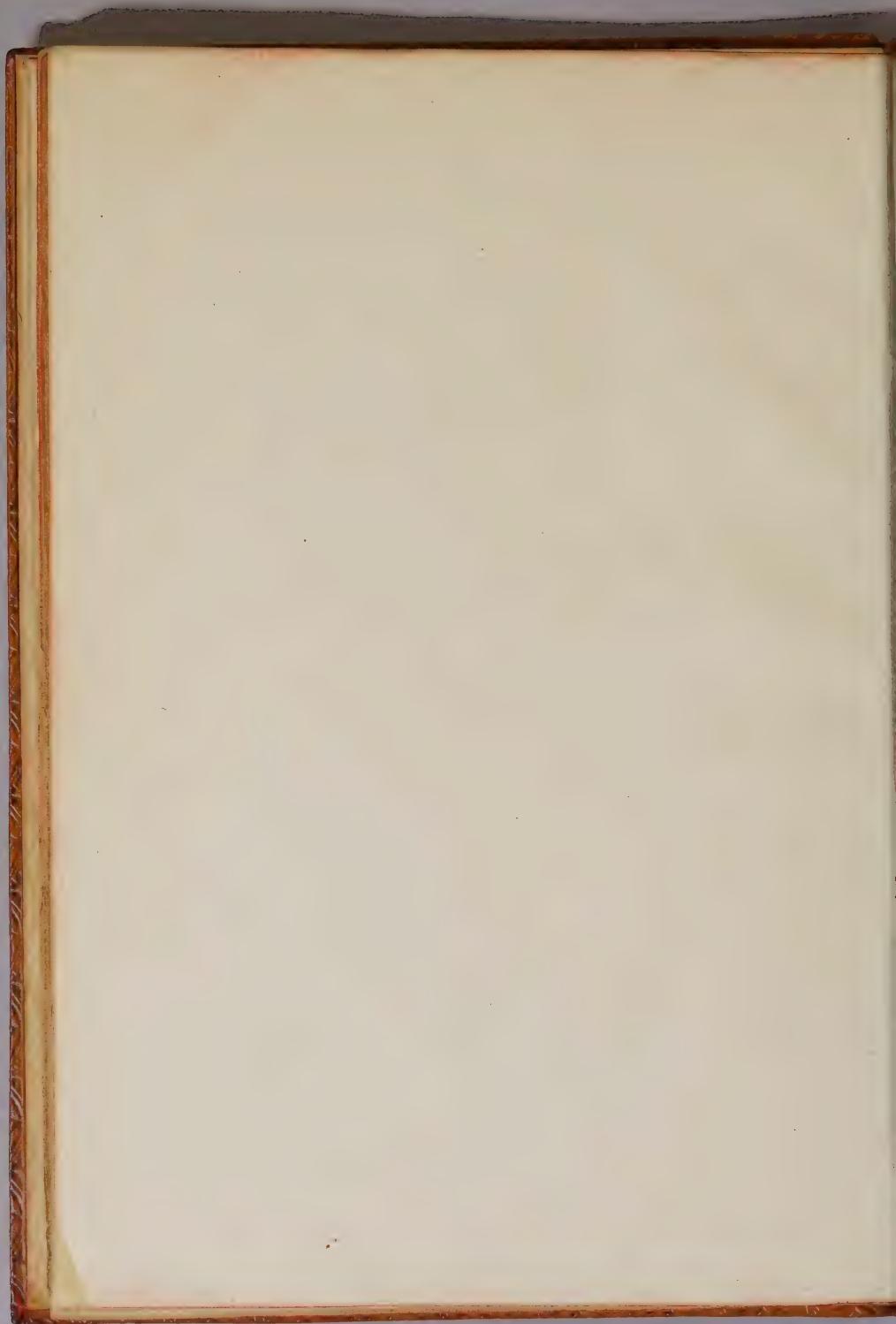
N. Smith.

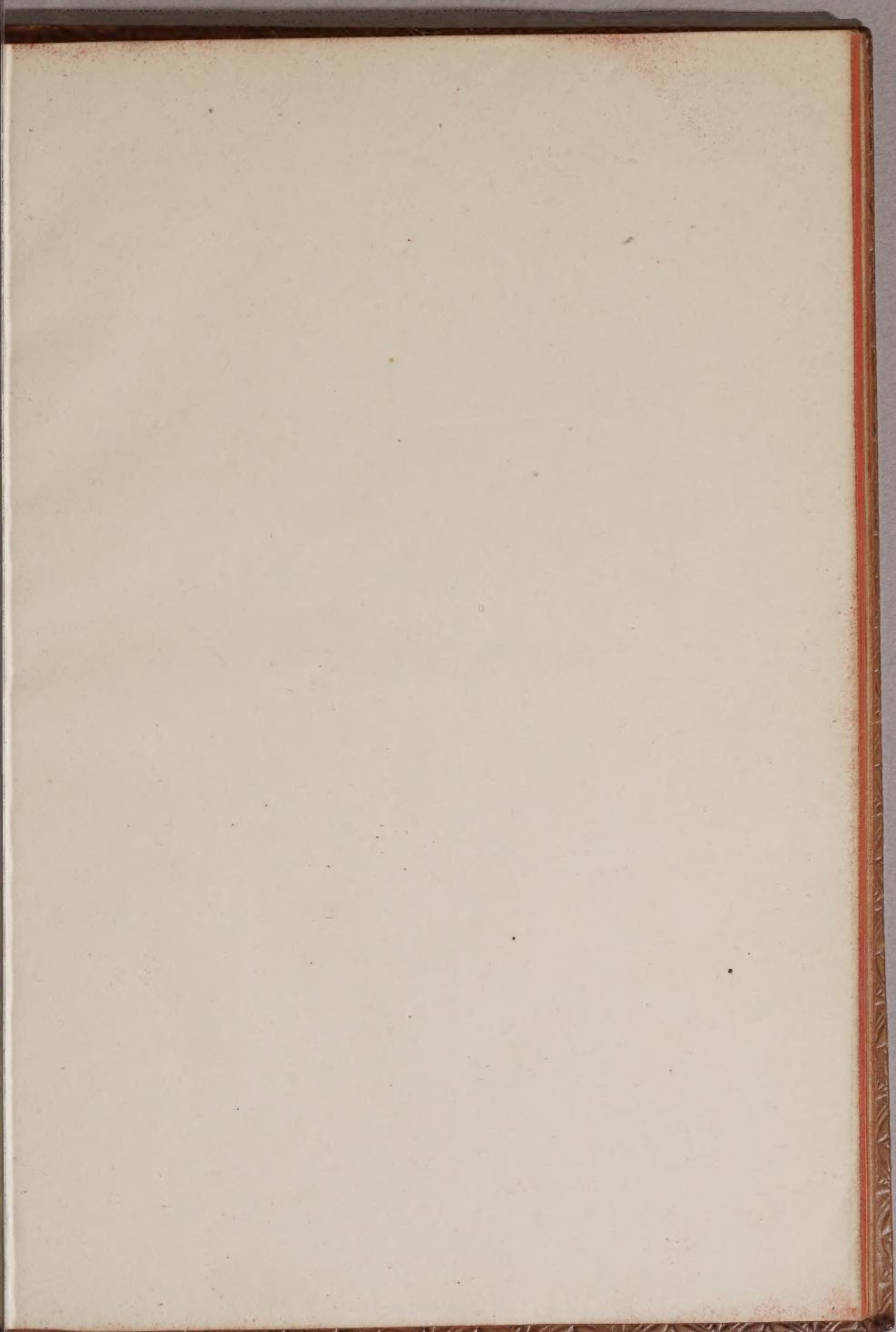
M. Borthwick.

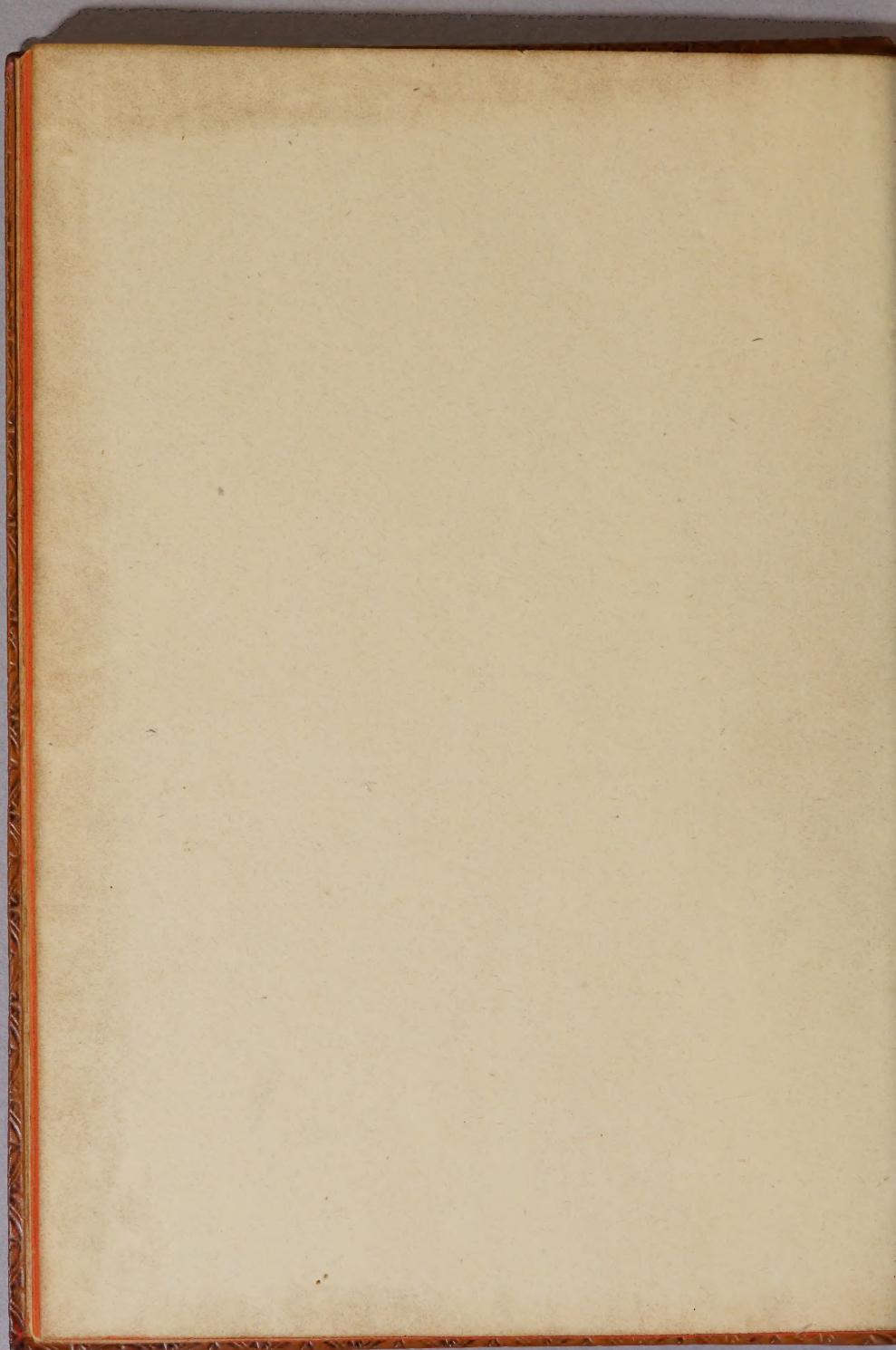
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